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16 SEP 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Research and Development, OSA

SUBJECT: U-2R Pilot Life Support Equipment

1. The subject of life support equipment for the U-2R program has been alluded to in several of the proposals and papers. However, at no place in these proposals or papers has there been a firm decision as to exactly what the pilots' life support equipment is to be.

2. It is the position of D/Operations and D/Materiel that full pressure suits should be used in the U-2R program. If for no other reason, the use of the full pressure suit is justified because of the obsolescence of the partial pressure suits and the resultant increasing difficulties in obtaining spare parts.

3. It is also the position of D/Operations and D/Materiel that there will not be a requirement for expensive individual tailoring of full pressure suits that is now required for the partial pressure suits. It is believed that the state-of-the-art of full pressure suit development is far enough along that an expensive R&D program will not be required. If the experience gained from the A-12/SR-71 programs is taken advantage of, it is conceivable that all Project IDEALIST pilots can be equipped with standard sized full pressure suits from USAF stocks.

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5. In the interest of dollar savings, the use of standard sized suits for IDEALIST pilots would amount to a considerable saving. If these suits could be obtained from USAF stocks, further savings could be realized.

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6. It is the recommendation of the undersigned that the following actions be implemented as soon as practical so as to prevent any possible slow-down in the U-2R development program.

a. Physical profiles of all IDEALIST pilots be taken to determine what size full pressure suits will be required.

b. USAF be contacted as to the availability of on-the-shelf life support items required for the U-2R program.

c. A full pressure suit modification program (if required) be initiated with David Clark Corporation.

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(U-2R Requirement Review Panel)

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